

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method of monitoring soiling in a fabric, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing the fabric with soiling-hiding yarns and at least one soiling-prone yarn that is not visually distinguishable from the soil-hiding yarns before the fabric has been soiled, including spacing the soiling-prone yarn or groups thereof from one another in at least selected areas of the fabric; and

(b) visually distinguishing the one soiling-prone yarn and soiling-hiding yarns in the fabric, after the fabric has been soiled, as an indicator of the extent of soiling of the fabric.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the soiling-hiding yarns include yarns formed of hollowfil fibers.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the soiling-prone yarns include yarns formed of multi-lobal fibers.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the soiling-prone yarns include yarns formed of tri-lobal fibers.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the soiling-hiding yarns include yarns formed of hollowfil fibers and the soiling-prone yarns include yarns formed of multi-lobal fibers.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 1 including forming the fabric using a plurality of soiling-prone yarns.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) A method according to claim 1 including forming the fabric with predominately soiling-hiding yarns.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein said soiling-prone yarn comprises a synthetic fiber.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein said soiling-prone yarn comprises one of a polylactic acid base, polyester, polypropylene, polyolefin, nylon, polyamide, or extruded metal fibers or fibers based upon naturally occurring non-synthetic material.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein said soil-hiding yarns comprise a synthetic fiber.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 11 wherein said soiling-prone yarn comprises one of a polylactic acid base, polyester, polypropylene, polyolefin, nylon, polyamide or extruded metal fibers or fibers based upon naturally occurring non-synthetic materials.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the fabric comprises a carpet and including causing the soiling-prone yarn to visually stand out from the soil-hiding yarns in the technical face of the carpet in response to a soiling of the carpet, thereby visually indicating a need to clean the carpet.

14. (Currently amended) A method of monitoring soiling in a carpet, comprising the steps of:

(a) forming the carpet with yarns formed of hollowfil fibers and yarns formed of multi-lobal fibers to provide a carpet with visually non-distinguishable aesthetic characteristics on the technical face thereof when the carpet is clean, including spacing

the yarns formed of multi-lobal fibers from one another in at least selected areas of the fabric; and

(b) visually distinguishing the yarns from one another in response to a soiling of the carpet.

15. (Currently Amended) A fabric having a soiling indicator therein comprising predominantly soiling-hiding yarns and at least one soiling-prone yarn enabling visual distinction between the soiling-hiding and soiling-prone yarns as an indicator of the extent of soiling of the fabric and wherein said fabric has a face with said soiling-hiding yarns and said one soiling-prone yarn visually exposed in said face and visually indistinguishable from one another absent soiling of the fabric and wherein the at least one soiling-prone yarn is in at least selected areas of the fabric and is spaced from other soiling-prone yarns or groups thereof.

16. (Original) A fabric according to claim 15 wherein said one yarn is formed of synthetic multi-lobal fibers.

17. (Original) A fabric according to claim 16 wherein said one yarn is formed of tri-lobal fibers.

18. (Original) A fabric according to claim 16 wherein said predominantly soiling-hiding yarns are formed of synthetic hollowfil fibers.

19. (Original) A fabric according to claim 15 comprising a carpet, said soiling-hiding yarns and said one soiling-prone yarn visually appearing in the technical face of the carpet.

20. (Original) A fabric according to claim 19 wherein said soiling-hiding yarns and said one soiling-prone yarn are tufted into a substrate forming part of the carpet.

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein: (1) a soiling-hiding yarn has a chemical composition and a cross-section, and (2) at least one soiling-prone yarn has the same chemical composition as the soiling-hiding yarn and a different cross-section.

23. (Previously presented) A fabric according to claim 15 wherein: (1) a soiling-hiding yarn has a chemical composition and a cross-section, and (2) at least one soiling-prone yarn has the same chemical composition as the soiling-hiding yarn and a different cross-section.